Listing of the Claims:

The listing of the claims below replaces all previous listings of the claims.

1.   (Currently Amended) A ~~storage system~~ storage system device for controlling access to a ~~resource, access being provided through a host device having a USB bus, the device~~ comprising:

a removable storage device configured to communication with a host device over a universal serial bus (USB), the removable storage device comprising:

a flash memory for storing at least one permission for determining access to the flash memory;

~~(a) an input~~ a biometric interface for receiving a request to access the ~~resource~~ flash memory;

~~(b) a flash memory device for storing at least one permission for determining access to the resource;~~

~~(c) a flash memory controller for controlling said flash memory device;~~

~~(d)~~ a processor for executing ~~said~~ at least one instruction and for comparing said request to said at least one permission without assistance from an operating system of the host device, such that if said at least one permission includes a type of access requested in said request, access to the ~~resource~~ flash memory is provided, and alternatively if said at least one permission does not include a type of access requested in said request, access to the ~~resource~~ flash memory is not provided; and

~~(e)~~ a USB interface controller for communicating with the USB bus of the host device and, if permitted, for transmitting data from said processor.

2.   (Cancelled).

3.   (Cancelled).

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4.   (Currently Amended) The <u>storage system of claim 1,</u> ~~device of claim 3,~~ wherein said biometric <u>interface</u> ~~detection device further~~ comprises:

 (i) a sample collector for collecting <u>a</u> ~~said~~ biological parameter of <u>a</u> ~~the~~ user<u>.</u> ~~;~~ ~~and~~

 ~~(ii) a software module for analyzing said biological parameter to determine whether the user has said at least one permission to access the resource.~~

5.   (Cancelled).

6.   (Currently Amended) The <u>storage system</u> ~~device~~ of claim <u>4,</u> ~~5,~~ wherein said biological parameter of the user is a fingerprint of the user.

7.   (Currently Amended) The <u>storage system</u> ~~device~~ of claim 1, further comprising:
 ~~(f)~~ a RAM component for storing data for performing said at least one instruction of said data processor.

8.   (Currently Amended) The <u>storage system</u> ~~device~~ of claim 1, further comprising:
 ~~(f)~~ a cryptographic chip for encrypting and decrypting data.

9.   (Currently Amended) The <u>storage system</u> ~~device~~ of claim 8, wherein said cryptographic chip performs an authentication process.

10.   (Currently Amended) The <u>storage system</u> ~~device~~ of claim 8, wherein said cryptographic chip emulates a smart card.

11.   (Currently Amended) The <u>storage system</u> ~~device~~ of claim 10, wherein said cryptographic chip stores encrypted smart card data.

12.   (Currently Amended) The <u>storage system</u> ~~device~~ of claim 8, wherein said cryptographic chip performs encryption immediately upon receiving a command from said ~~data~~ processor.

13.   (Currently Amended) The <u>storage system</u> ~~device~~ of claim 12, wherein said cryptographic chip creates a cryptographic signature with a hash immediately upon receiving a command from said ~~data~~ processor.

14.   (Currently Amended) The <u>storage system</u> ~~device~~ of claim 8, wherein said cryptographic chip further comprises a cryptographic chip memory for storing at least one cryptographic key and at least one cryptographic instruction for encrypting and decrypting data, such that said cryptographic chip forms a removable encryption engine.

15.   (Currently Amended) The <u>storage system</u> ~~device~~ of claim 14, wherein said encrypted data is stored on said cryptographic chip memory.

16.   (Currently Amended) The <u>storage system</u> ~~device~~ of claim 15, wherein said cryptographic chip memory is a separate flash memory device from said flash memory device.

17.   (Currently Amended) The <u>storage system</u> ~~device~~ of claim 15, wherein said cryptographic chip memory is said flash memory device.

18-50. (Canceled).